



## Welcome to Guatemala – Heart of the Mayan Civilization

### Relevant information for BARG LA attendees – October 2015

Population (2014): 15,806,675

Area: 108,889 km<sup>2</sup>

Density: 145/km<sup>2</sup>

Administrative division: 22 departments and 338 municipalities

Language: Spanish

Currency: Quetzal (GTQ)

Exchange rate: Q. 7.65 x US\$1.00 (floating exchange rate)

GDP (Nominal - 2014): US\$58,737.7 millions

GDP per capita (2014): US\$3,716

Weather: mild, tropical and subtropical

Average temperature: Guatemala Ccity and Antigua Guatemala between 22° and 26° C (70° – 78° F).

Time Zone: - 6GMT

Rainy Season: May to October

Voltage: 110 volts – 60Hz

It is suggested to carry an adapter with flat pins



### Tourist Information



**Antigua Guatemala**, located at 45 km. from the capital city, it was the third capital established by the Spaniards after the terrible flood of the Almolonga Valley, on September 11, 1541. Founded in 1543 and named *City of Santiago de los Caballeros of Guatemala* in 1566. After pestilences, earthquakes and floods, in 1773 the earthquake telluric movement eventually destroyed it.

Located in the valley of Panchoy, surrounded by three volcanoes and mountains with coffee plantations. Because of its history and beauty it was declared "Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO in 1979. With its incomparable cobble streets and ancient buildings, it is a scenario in which splendid cultural and religious traditions come to life. Visitors can choose from range of beautiful colonial hotels, both hotels "boutique" as well as charming hotels, with first class facilities for conferences and business meetings, in an inspiring environment.



### Crafts Market of Antigua Guatemala



Located in 2 junctions: 6<sup>th</sup> South Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. as well as 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Poniente St., one block away from Plaza Mayor. Open year round. Visitors gather here to buy all kinds of crafts, from textiles, sculptures and toys to leather goods that are shown in a unique way with dazzling shapes and colours.

Further, Antigua Guatemala is famous for the manufacture of jewellery with Jade (Imperial, green, black, purple, among others).

Restaurants and entertainment venues in Antigua Guatemala: La Fonda de la Calle Real, La Cueva de los Uriquizú, Luna de Miel, La Gastroteca, Casa del Ron (perfect place to taste the award-winning Ron Zacapa Centenario), Chez Christophe, Meson Panza Verde, cafe Condesa, El Cazador Italiano, Epicure, Finca Filadelfia (also offers a coffee tour, canopy, hiking and other activities), Reunion (around 15 min. from Antigua - also has a golf course of 18 holes).

Antigua Guatemala has many museums and architectonic structures of the colonial era that are worth visiting. It is also very famous for its sweets made with recipes from the Colonial era. Main Stores: Maria Gordillo, El Sombrerón and others with a strong tradition.

### **Guatemala City**



Main business area, where religious and cultural activities take place, the full name of the capital city is "La Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción". This metropolis, with a contrasting mix between colonial architecture and modern buildings, offers visitors a unique experience.

**Guatemala Latin American Capital of Culture 2015.** The city of Guatemala was elected unanimously as "Ibero-American Capital of Culture 2015" for its outstanding cultural development, through varied activities such as concerts, theatre, painting and sculpture exhibitions, literary events, music, dance, painting and sculpture schools, programmes like "Culture in your Neighbourhood", Historic Centre Festival, among others, together with the celebration of 240 anniversary of the moving of the capital to the Valley of Ermita.

Guatemala is the most modern and cosmopolitan city in Central America. Perfect location for conferences and conventions, you can also enjoy playing golf, get medical treatments, visit its shopping centres, among other activities.



The Historic Centre is definitely worth a visit, with over 200 years of existence, touring the cathedral, emblematic buildings, churches and museums, reflecting the historical development of the country.

It also has different points of entertainment and distraction, as the Zona Viva (10min. from La Aurora Airport) with exclusive hotels, restaurants and nightclubs.

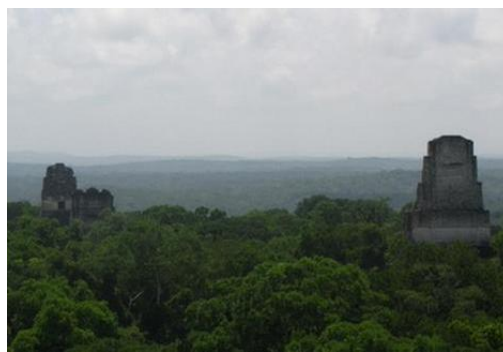
#### Crafts Market of Guatemala



Located on the Juan Pablo II Boulevard, on the path to the “La Aurora” International Airport, in zone 13 of Guatemala City, it offers a wide range of crafts such as: textiles from different regions, leather, wood, ceramics, candles, paintings, antiques, silver and jade jewellery, basketry, and clothing.

#### **Other sites of interest in Guatemala**

##### **Tikal National Park in Petén**



Up to date, this is the largest Mayan city known and that was subject of studies. The park covers an area of 576 km<sup>2</sup>. It was declared a “World Heritage Site” by UNESCO in 1979. The main temples and places you can visit are the following: the North Acropolis and the Central, Plaza Mayor and a large number of stelae and altars which tell part of the dynastic history of the Maya civilization. This site can be visited during the day, flying from La Aurora Airport (flights leave early in the morning and return in the evening). Tours can be arranged in Antigua Guatemala.

##### **Pacaya Volcano National Park**

To get to the volcano you need to take the CA-9 road towards the south coast, crossing left at 37 km, towards the municipality of San Vicente Pacaya, about 45 min. from Guatemala City. The Pacaya volcano is located between the departments of Guatemala and Escuintla. Its 2500 metres high. It also has a secondary conduct called the "Pico Mackenney". The ascent takes about 1 hour. Tours from Antigua Guatemala to the site (half day round trip) are offered.



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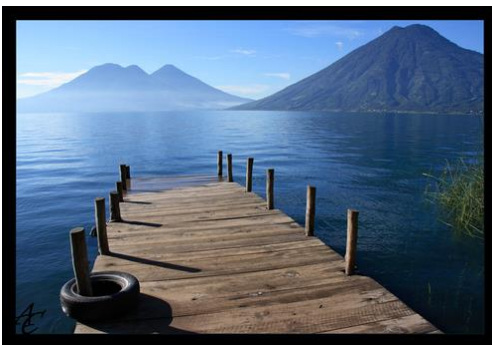


## Chichicastenango



Located 145 kilometres from Guatemala City, it was founded by “quiches” who fled from the destruction of Utatlán by the Spaniards. It is the main commercial and downtown area for the "Maxeños" (name given to the people of Chichicastenango, derived from Max, which means Thomas in Quiché language). Traders come down on Thursdays and Sundays to the central square to sell their goods.

## Lake Atitlan and Panajachel



Considered to be one of the most beautiful places in the world by the famous writer Aldous Huxley. Located 144 kms from Guatemala City, the lake is certainly the most important natural attraction and one of the most popular in Guatemala. Three spectacular volcanoes, Toliman, Atitlan and San Pedro, form the natural setting of the lake. It is located 1,560 metres above sea level. One of the villages on the shore of the lake is Panajachel, famous for its hotels, restaurants, bohemian life and a variety of crafts. Tours from Antigua Guatemala are offered to the site, along with Chichicastenango. You can visit the area and return on the same day.

### Tourist Assistance:

+502 2421 2810 or 1500 (local)

Email: [asistur@inguat.gob.gt](mailto:asistur@inguat.gob.gt)

[www.visitguatemala.com](http://www.visitguatemala.com)

### Emergency phone numbers:

Fire Department: 122 y 123

Police: 110



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## Airlines' with Office in Guatemala

- American Airlines
- Continental Airlines
- Copa Airlines
- Delta
- Iberia
- Avianca
- Spirit
- Interjet
- Aeromexico
- United Airlines

## Migratory Information:

**Does not require Visa:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Spain, USA, France, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

**Requires Visa BUT if you are a Canada, USA or EU visa holder, you are granted Category A and Visa is no longer required:** Bolivia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Ecuador, Granada, Guyana, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and Suriname.

**Requires Visa:** Cuba, Haiti.

**Full country list:** [http://www.minex.gob.gt/Visor\\_Pagina.aspx?PaginaID=21](http://www.minex.gob.gt/Visor_Pagina.aspx?PaginaID=21)

## Health Information for Travelers:

According to the National Epidemiology Centre of the Ministry of Health of Guatemala: immunization card for foreigners entering the country is not currently requested.

For people coming from Africa, it is essential to pass a clinic evaluation at La Aurora International Airport, due to Ebola outbreaks in the continent.

## Taxi information

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The recommended taxi service is the *yellow and green* ("amarillos y verdes" in Spanish). They do not offer fixed rates as they operate with a taximeter that sets the fee per kilometre driven (Q 4.80 and charges additional Q 0.80 for every 33 seconds of delay/timeout).

They have a fleet of sedan cars. The trips range is throughout the capital. For Antigua Guatemala city they offer a service with a fixed rate of Q 250.00 (approximately US\$ 30.00).

To request the service dial the following numbers: 1766 (local), +502 2470 1515, +502 2470 9595.

## Servicio al Cliente

Call Center

CORPORACION AMARILLO  
www.corporacionamarillo.com

TAXI AMARILLO EXPRESS 2470-1515  
TAXI VERDE EXPRESS 2470-9595  
EXECUTIVE SERVICES BLACK CAR  
AMARILLO RENTA AUTOS BYD AUTO  
4ta calle 0-15 zona 13, Guatemala pbx. 22295959